

CHRISTOPHER HALLUM
President of Council

MICHAEL KLINE
Vice President of Council

JOANNE MONACO
Clerk of Council,

COUNCIL:

NANCY E. FELLOWS

JOE JARMUSZKIEWICZ

DANIEL KNECHT

TANYA TAYLOR DRAPER

City of Willoughby Hills

Regular Council Meeting

Minutes of May 28, 2020 - Amended

Policy No. 2: All Council meetings shall be recorded by audio recording device and will be held in perpetuity and shall be part of the official records and minutes. Written minutes of Council shall be shortened whenever possible.

The Special Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7:02 p.m. remotely, using Zoom and Facebook Live. Council President Hallum presided. (Audio: 0:12-1:41)

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 1:48-2:09)

ROLL CALL

(Audio: 2:19-3:29)

Members Present: Councilman Joe Jarmuszkiewicz, Council Vice President Mike Kline, Councilman Dan Knecht, Councilwoman Tanya Taylor Draper, Councilwoman Nancy Fellows and Council President Chris Hallum.

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz requested to be excused at 7:45 p.m. tonight to attend his daughter's high school graduation commencement.

Also Present: Mayor Andy Gardner, Finance Director Frank Brichacek, Law Director Michael C. Lucas and City Engineer Pete DiFranco

Council President Hallum announced the resignation of Council-at-Large I representative Janet R. Majka which was received and accepted yesterday.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 4:29-5:05)

The Regular Council meeting minutes of May 14, 2020 are not yet available to be approved. The audio, however, is available on the City website.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS (Audio: 5:14-5:26)

Emails from Executive Assistant to Mayor:

- 5/11/20 email re: Revised Draft meeting minutes of 4/23/20
- 5/11/20 email re: Revised Council meeting draft minutes of 4/23/20
- 5/12/20 email re: Notification of Civil Service Meeting
- 5/12/20 email re: Amendment to Ordinance 2020-29 – Surplus vehicles and Equipment
- 5/12/20 email re: Agenda and Legislation for Thursday, 5/14/20 Council Meeting
- 5/14/20 email re: Whisper ordinance –numbered

Other Emails:

- 5/09/20 email from Mayor Gardner re: PCABR Meeting Follow-up
- 5/11/20 email from Councilwoman Majka re: Evolved mail Account
- 5/11/20 email from Dorene Moore re: Refused Rates for Senior Citizens in Willoughby Hills
- 5/11/20 email from Christina Loparo, re: Yard waste
- 5/12/20 email from OMCA-Valencia Marrow- City of Youngstown, re: Executive Session-Zoom
- 5/13/20 email from Council President Hallum, re: Meeting Recordings (Whisper & Council of Whole)
- 5/13/20 email from OMCA -Jill Pierce, City of Springfield, re: Memorial Donation on City Property
- 5/14/20 email from OMCA –Autumn Klein, Village of Granville, re: CARE Act Resolution
- 5/14/20 email from OMCA-April Beggerow, City of Gahanna, re: OCJS Coronavirus related expenses Grant Resolution
- 5/14/20 email from OMCA-Julie Niese-Pedrosa, Village of Ottawa, re: Shelter house rentals
- 5/14/20 email from OMCA –Joan Kemper, City of Bay Village, Returning to in-person Council meetings
- 5/14/20 email from OMCA-Sharon Cassler, City of Cambridge, re: Coronavirus Aid, relief and Economic Security Act Legislation
- 5/14/20 email from Greg Maschak, re: Republic Service Renewal Contract
- 5/14/20 email from OMCA-Sharon Cassler, City of Cambridge, re: Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act – ROUND 2
- 5/15/20 email from Arlene Wampler, re:Yard waste pick-up
- 5/15/20 email from Council President Hallum, re: Recording for Council Meeting May 14
- 5/15/20 Ohio Municipal League Legislative Bulletin, OML UPDATE AT-A-GLANCE
- 5/18/20 email from Councilwoman Taylor Draper, re: Yard Waste Information Willoughby Hills
- 5/18/20 email from OMCA, Stacy Senskey, City of Ashtabula, re: Tents in the city
- 5/18/20 email from Katherine Lloyd, PCABR Clerk, re: PCABR Meeting 5/21/20 – via ZOOM
- 5/18/20 email from OMCA, Janice Bates, Tipp City, re: Community Entertainment District
- 5/19/20 email from OMCA, Bonnie Beck, Village of Monroeville, re: back-up tapes
- 5/19/20 email from Lakeland Community College, Nonprofit and Public Service Center, Log On & Learn, Donating while Distanced
- 5/20/20 email from Joe Terranova, re: Public Records Request
- 5/21/20 email from Dorene Moore, re: Refuse Rates for Senior Citizens in Willoughby Hills
- 5/21/20 email from Localgov.com, re: Successfully Receive Your Disaster Grant Funds

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 5:28-9:29)

An opportunity for the public to address Council concerning anything pertaining to tonight's agenda

Public Portion opened at 7:06 p.m.

Jenna Bing, 36951 Beech Hills Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094. Mrs. Bing asked about “budgeted personnel.” She asked who is negotiating the Union contracts and where the negotiations stand. She wanted to know who the participants in the AFSCME Union are and if some are laid off. She then asked about

Union eligibility and management or supervisory personnel being permitted in the Union. Mrs. Bing pointed out that this is the largest part of our budget.

Public Portion closed at 7:10 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 9:29-17:15)

Mayor Gardner reported:

- Union negotiations update: Mayor, Finance Director Brichacek and the Law Department are handling the negotiations and have a meeting set up with all Unions to explain financial conditions and hear their questions. Financials are on the website. He will defer to the Law Department on Mrs. Bing's question on the Union membership.
- Impact of COVID: Health and safety of our residents is our primary concern. He recommends to follow CDC guidelines and "don't let your guard down." PPE is being restocked by us and the county in the event of a flare up or second wave. New Lake County cases are being reported daily. He cannot say it enough to "be safe." Finance Director Brichacek and he are reviewing finances daily re. COVID and nothing new since he last reported. Some revenues are down and are being tracked. Late in the third quarter we will be able to make a better assessment, except for Mayor's Court.
- With regard to Councilwoman Majka's resignation, issues were raised and relate back to the Mayor Robert Weger era. As to how she felt he treated her during meetings, the Mayor said that the Council meeting tapes are available but he does not feel he conducted himself inappropriately at any of these meetings toward Councilman Majka, but the public is free to listen to the tapes. It is inappropriate to comment further at this time.
- There was a recent issue with City sewers that will be reported on by our City Engineer this evening.
- He encouraged residents to complete their census. There are 31.5% residents who still need to do their census according to a recent report he received. It is important as it controls funding that the city may receive.
- VFW memorial – campaign to raise funds is wrapping up and \$1500 is raised to date.
- Tennis courts re-opened Tuesday with guidelines posted for social distancing.
- He supports this evening's ordinances – CDBG grant (previously provided handicapped ramps for us), CARES and FEMA for COVID expense reimbursement.
- He has requested that Council pass a motion this evening to authorize fee waivers for use of our practice fields (not games), providing we receive their schedule, insurance, background checks on coaches and a waiver to be signed.
- Condolences to the families of Joan Adams and Char Aliberti, who passed away recently.
- Congratulations to all of our 2020 graduates. Willoughby-Eastlake Schools will be holding their ceremonies today and tomorrow at North High and he is grateful for their sacrifices for the health of our community.

Comments after Mayor's Report:

- **Council President Hallum** offered congratulations to all graduates. These graduates include Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz's daughter Lola and Mayor Gardner's son, Aaron.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 17:26-19:19)

Law Director Lucas reported:

- With regard to the appeal to Council on the two conditions on PC-ABR recommendations on the Attorney Jordan Berns case: He will not be putting this before Council because the parties have acknowledged that they will follow the soil and water conditions. He felt we got a full resolution of it.
- With regard to Mrs. Bing's questions on the AFSCME Union, he does not have the information available, but will get back to her.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 19:22-24:20)

Finance Director reported:

- COVID financial impact report – "hard to gauge." \$23,553 to date in expenses for COVID. It is more severely felt on the revenue side. Mayor's Court from April is down \$35,000 from last year. YTD it is down about \$2900 fortunately. Income tax: RITA projected loss of \$540K YTD through May, \$232K less than May 2019. Some of this we will make up with timing of filing and timing of payments. We will have a clearer idea in November or December. Worker's Compensation: State refunded 2018 premiums \$116,000; \$48,000 has already been received (\$75,000 was budgeted). Motor vehicle fees are impacted with BMV closure. Gasoline tax is down about 40% over the last three months. 2021 Tax Budget is the first step in the budget process and is set for the next Council meeting. Draft is posted on website and two hard copies are available in Finance Department.

Questions/comments following Finance Director's Report: (Audio: 24:20-25:11)

Councilwoman Fellows asked what the \$23,553 expenses for COVID were, besides PPE. She indicated she would like to see the actual items that add up to these numbers. **Finance Director Brichacek** said that \$19,590. had been spent YTD and there is approximately \$4000 in open Purchase Orders, primarily PPE.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 25:12-27:50)

City Engineer DiFranco reported:

- 2020 Sewer Rehab bids were received; six contractors took out bid books, 2 contractors returned bids; low bidder was United Survey (also had received 2019 bid) at \$152,000; Engineer's estimate was \$180,000. He will be making the recommendation to accept the bid at the next meeting.

- 2020 Street Program – Preconstruction Meeting is forthcoming and a schedule of streets should be available at that time to be able to notify residents of any disturbance.
- There is a force main issue identified by Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss, as Mayor advised earlier, at the sanitary sewer at Cleveland Clinic to Chardon Road. It was not performing efficiently. A three-inch diameter pipe had corroded to a one-inch pipe and Service Department could not clean it out. It needs to be replaced. We are presently surveying other force mains then will give a plan with an estimate.
- Rockefeller Road Resurfacing – State has no idea when funding will be available; he will continue to monitor.

Questions/Comments following City Engineer's Report: (Audio: 27:50-30:39)

Council President Hallum asked about the prior experience using United Survey Inc.

City Engineer DiFranco stated that we were happy with their work, they came in under budget and they had just put in one change order for additional work that we felt was beneficial at the time.

Councilman Knecht asked about the force main issue. Was it an emergency replacement? Is it affecting residents or businesses that may experience disruption in service?

City Engineer DiFranco stated that it serves the Clinic and Classic Auto dealership. We are working to replace it as soon as possible. We should not let it go long without fixing it.

Councilwoman Fellows asked the age of the force main. **City Engineer DiFranco** stated that it was installed in 1997. It is a steel force main that had corroded. We now use plastic. **Mayor Gardner** stated that **Road Superintendent Grubiss** has identified some cleanouts to be replaced with plastic pipe. We will use the sewer truck to do this work. There will be no disruption in service. There can be some bypass pumping if Mark feels that would avoid a disruption in service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio: 30:42-31:30)

WHISPER Subcommittee:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper requested that it remain on Third Reading this evening as the Committee still has more to do. The Subcommittee is currently working on forms.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS (Audio: 31:30-33:34)

PC-ABR:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper reported on the 5/21/20 PC-ABR Meeting. One new sign at 27970 Chardon Road (Save on Cigs/Papa Smoke) was granted preliminary approval; one accessory structure at 2857 Hayes Drive was tabled due to pending recommendations and one approval was given for a major home addition at 37200 Chardon Road.

Recreation Commission:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz reported that there had been no Recreation Commission meeting since the last Council meeting, but he spoke with our Alternate Chagrin River Watershed Partner Delegate Pat Grebenc who advised him that there are a lot of Recreation grants available through CRWP. He plans to set up a subcommittee to review grants for next year. He would like to get this started in the next month or so.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Audio: 33:38-33:45)

No New Business was presented.

LEGISLATION (Audio: 33:52-47:43)

ORDINANCE 2020-23 – THIRD READING (Audio: 33:52-37:06)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART NINE-STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE THREE – UTILITIES, CHAPTER 925 – SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATIONS, SECTION 925.06 – FEES, SUB-SECTION (c) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO AND REPEALING ANY AND ALL CONFLICTING LEGISLATION.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor Draper seconded by Council Vice President Kline to adopt Ordinance 2020-23.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper asked if this is a surcharge increase. **Council President Hallum** explained that yes, Willoughby changed their fees and we have to change ours to match theirs. This affects commercial businesses and the City entities who have bulk sewer waste disposal.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

 Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to adopt Ordinance 2020-23 amending Part nine – Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code, Title Three – Utilities, Chapter 925 – Sewerage System regulations, Section 925.06 – Fees, Subsection (c) of the Codified Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 2020-24 – THIRD READING (Audio: 37:11-38:43)

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL PROVIDED BY RICHARD L. BOWEN & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE ENGINEERING FEES FOR THE 2020 ROCKEFELLER ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fellows seconded by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz to adopt Ordinance 2020-24.

Discussion on the Motion:

Council President Hallum stated that the State will approve funding before this will be put into use.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

 Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to adopt Ordinance 2020-24 to accept the proposal provided by Richard L. Bowen & Associates, Inc. for the engineering fees for the 2020 Rockefeller Road Resurfacing Project.

ORDINANCE 2020-26 – THIRD READING (Audio: 38:48-39:08)

AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2018-11 IN ORDER TO ABOLISH THE SUSPENSION OF THE WILLOUGHBY HILLS ISOLATED SENIOR PROGRAM FOR EVERYDAY RELIEF (W.H.I.S.P.E.R.) TO ASSIST THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, AND RE-ESTABLISHING THE W.H.I.S.P.E.R. PROGRAM; REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated that this will remain on Third Reading based upon **Councilwoman Taylor Draper's** earlier request this evening and no Council objection to doing so.

ORDINANCE 2020-27 – SECOND READING (Audio: 39:13-39:54)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AS SUBMITTED BY RICHARD L. BOWEN & ASSOCIATES, INC. PROVIDING ZONING ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated that this will remain on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-30 – FIRST READING (Audio: 39:55-42:40)

AN ORDINANCE REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT WITH THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE URBAN ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND FOR THE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz seconded by Councilwoman Taylor Draper to waive Three Readings on Ordinance 2020-30.

Roll Call: AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to waive Three Readings on Ordinance 2020-30.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor Draper seconded by Council Vice President Kline to adopt Ordinance 2020-30.

Roll Call: AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to adopt Ordinance 2020-30 reaffirming the City's commitment with Lake County Board of Commissioners participation in the Urban Entitlement CDBG Program.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-31 - FIRST READING (Audio: 42:44-45:04)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND ACCEPT ANY AND ALL FUND PROVIDED THROUGH THIS GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor Draper seconded by Councilman Knecht to waive Three Readings on Ordinance 2020-31.

Roll Call: AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to waive Three Readings on Ordinance 2020-31.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor Draper seconded by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz to adopt Ordinance 2020-31.

Roll Call: AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to adopt Ordinance 2020-31 authorizing the Mayor to sign and all documents pertaining to the FEMA Request for Public Assistance and accept any and all fund provided through this grant.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-32 - FIRST READING (Audio: 44:07-47:43)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY AND RECEIVE FUNDING THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz seconded by Council Vice President Kline to waive Three Readings on Ordinance 2020-32.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

 Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to waive Three Readings on Ordinance 2020-32.

Motion was made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz seconded by Councilwoman Taylor Draper to adopt Ordinance 2020-32.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

 Vote: 6/0

Motion Carries to adopt Ordinance 2020-32 authorizing the Mayor or his designee to apply and receive funding through the CARES Act.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio: 47:58-49:32)

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz asked to be excused at this point of the meeting (at 7:49 a.m.) to attend his daughter's commencement.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor Draper made a motion to waive practice fees for Roemisch Field and Campbell Park provided the documentation required, to include insurance, waivers, background checks and schedules is provided.

Motion was seconded by Council Vice President Kline to waive the practice fee, as stated above.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

 Vote: 5/0

Motion Carries to waive the practice fees with the provisions listed above.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio: 49:40-56:09)

An opportunity for the public to address Council with any comments, issue or concern.

Public Portion opened at 7:51 p.m.

Jenna Bing, 36951 Beech Hills Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 – Mrs. Bing made the following points:

- 1) She had “seen something on social media about the Dodd and Eagle Road area where there is a house being built and trees were taken down. It said on social media that one of our Service Department people had pumped out basements and were dumping it into the Chagrin River. I believe Mayor Gardner said we did not have the equipment to do this. But I believe we do because he even referenced it today in the sense of having a pump truck. I am concerned about, now granted this probably happened last year before Andy was Mayor and things might have changed with the Service Department, but I think it is well worth looking into to find out how in the world our Service Department was going into people’s basements and helping them by pumping out their basement and it sounded like on a regular basis this was done. That does not sound correct to me. I am responsible for my basement and WHISPER wasn’t up, when we were helping our poor seniors. The man feels exceedingly bullied right now.”
- 2) “That was also referenced by Janet, feeling bullied about her time here recently on Council and I have seen it. I have seen the disrespect paid to Nancy Fellows when she tries to raise an issue and the fact that the two most senior people at the time on our Council were not given any responsibilities to help run any committees or anything like that, and they really know how, and I just think that something is really, really bad about this. But I really would like a direct exploration into understanding this issue with pumping out basements and using our City services for that type of thing. That just smells bad, and like I say, I have a good imagination and I couldn’t make that up if I tried. There are a lot of stories I could make up about the City probably, but I don’t and I have no reason to but that one is so bizarre to me that I just can’t help but think it is true. That kind of thing needs to be explored, even if it is not going on today. Explore how that ever happened in the past.”

Dale Fellows, 2812 Fowler Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

“For Mr. Lucas: I had mentioned at the last meeting about the Organizational Meeting and if you had an opportunity to listen to the tape and you said you had read the transcript or the minutes, and that was great, but I just wanted to get your take where Mayor Gardner presided over the meeting and was asked early on about when the voting came by I think Councilman Fiebig at the time, about voting for himself. Is that allowed? And the response was yes which has been a tradition here in Willoughby Hills, going way back that you can vote for yourself on those types of matters. And, of course, folks did that night. I just wanted to get your take, your thoughts on it that that was correct as has been done in the past. That was my question for Mr. Lucas. I just had a quick statement: at the end of the last meeting, Mayor Gardner said something that was pretty profound. He said that if, I can understand, if I can get this correct, he said that people around this community like to say things over and over again, assuming that they are true when they actually aren’t. Or

something to that effect and it just made me think at the time, and of course I could not respond at the time about the mythical \$800,000 loss that was said over and over and over again and folks got elected on that stance when it actually was truly mythical how it went from an \$800,000 loss to a \$500,000 surplus last year, magically, over time, so just a quick comment.”

Public Portion closed at 7:57 p.m.

Comments following Public Portion: (Audio:56:10-1:02:08)

Mayor Gardner responded to Mrs. Bing’s concerns: 1) About a truck – he checked “with Mr. Grubiss who has been here for several years and my statement to the resident was that there is only one piece of equipment that the City has that is not a fire engine that can move water like that. It is our sewer truck. I would be very surprised if sewer trucks offloaded into the river. I checked with Mr. Grubiss and he was absolutely fair with me that the truck is never emptied into the river, even if it were to take clean water straight out of a hydrant, it would never be discharged into the river, not so long as since he has been here, which again, is at least 4 or 5 years. So that did not happen, according to Mr. Grubiss.” The only place that it is discharged is into a special manhole with a curb barrier around it to catch any overflow so that it goes straight into the sewer system, where it needs to go. As to the resident’s statement, Mr. Grubiss told him that it never happened during his tenure and he should let us know if he would happen to see it happening. Mark also told him that he does not do work on private property with City equipment but I would be happy to check with him and report at the next meeting.

Law Director Lucas responded to Mr. Fellows: “I am not quite sure what your question is. I would make the suggestion: 1) I would like to look at the minutes while we talk about it, and 2) you can call me at my office at any time and we can talk about it and I know you know my number and I would then I would forward an answer directly to your question at the next meeting. I have some questions I want to ask you in relation to your question to me. So I would suggest at any time, give me a call and we can set up a time, I can talk to you about it and again it wouldn’t be just me and you talking, at the end of that, making sure I understand your question completely, I will then report my answer at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper: “I would like to make this comment to all of the residents out there: There is absolutely nothing, and it is something that I am learning right now, that we do in the dark. We are not in some back alley somewhere making deals. Absolutely everything that we say and we do is for everyone to see and hear. So I encourage all of the residents to go back and review tapes, review minutes, and determine for yourself if you believe these comments that were made. I have not seen any bullying here, so I personally disagree with those conclusions and statements. And that’s all I would like to say.”

Council President Hallum: “It was brought up about the surplus from last year. The surplus had nothing to do with any action that Council took and more to do with what Administration did to be careful about how they spent money. Had the past Council not done some things that they did, the surplus would have been even greater. So that is really what happened there. I just wanted to be clear about that. Secondly, with regard to the resignation letter from Ms. Majka, I will just say that I was disappointed that she presented that. I felt that I was the only person publicly that did give her good advice to not get involved in the voting or

discussion on certain matters that got her into some issues that are now being reviewed. I tried to be very supportive and helpful from the beginning of this situation so I was disappointed to see that now, just because we had some disagreements, that suddenly she put me as being mean and a bully. Just disappointed in that.”

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

(Audio: 1:02:09-1:06:35)

Council President Hallum announced that there will be an announcement in tomorrow’s newspaper, as well as Sunday’s newspaper, that we are starting to accept applications for the open Council position. Applicants can send their resume and a statement as to why you want to be on Council via email, delivery directly to City Hall or by U.S. mail, post marked by next Friday. He looks forward to seeing who may be out in the community to help round out the group and move the City forward.

Council Vice President Kline thanked resident Don Akins who would “give you the safety vest off his back.” Mr. Akins recently advised him of a section of the road on Dodd Road near Dodd’s Landing, near the guard rail, had collapsed and was creating a fairly precarious situation. When he contacted Mark Grubiss of our Service Department, and within what seemed minutes, a crew was out and repaired that section of the road. Thanks to both of those individuals. A serious accident may have been avoided due to their prompt action.

Councilwoman Fellows stated: “Just to paraphrase for myself, everybody most certainly is entitled to their opinions, their beliefs and their experiences, but I believe that the City of Willoughby Hills has lost an amazing public servant with the resignation of Councilwoman Janet Majka. In the more than eighteen years that I have served on Council, not many have come close to the dedication and devotion to our city than Jan has given. My mentor, Councilwoman and Council President Billi Kamis displayed these same qualities as well. All that Jan wanted to do was to serve our wonderful community, no different than any of us that are sitting at the Council table or Administration today. Of the members I have served with, I felt Jan has been the most peaceful, is a peacemaker at many of our meetings. She was always prepared for Council and Committee meetings. She did her homework. She asked questions. She addressed residents’ needs and she voted for what she believed was in the best interest of our community, which we all do so she should be given credit for that. As the Council representative of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Jan worked tirelessly, acquiring a vast amount of knowledge to benefit the city, again, which was cast aside with new Council and Administration. And because of the years that I have been around, she has been repeatedly (inaudible) and she has been harassed and she has been bullied by residents, Administration, and even by some of her own Council members. I am really, really sad and can only hope that this resignation will provide her peace. As a lifelong resident of the city, I highly doubt that she will turn a deaf ear or a blind eye to the issues that face us. And as Apostle Peter warned to believers who are under persecution, to be on the alert because our adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. You will be sorrily missed, Jan. I am so sorry that you left Council.”

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 1:06:38-1:07:15)

Motion was made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** seconded by **Councilwoman Fellows** to adjourn.

Roll Call: AYES: Kline, Knecht, Taylor Draper, Fellows and Hallum

NAYS: None

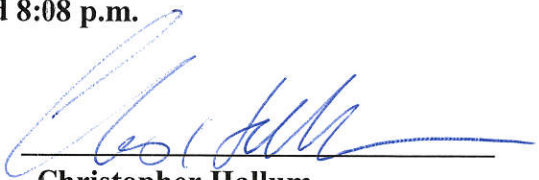
Vote: 5/0

Motion carries to adjourn the meeting of May 28, 2020.

The Regular Council Meeting of May 28, 2020, was adjourned 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED:

6/12/2020
Date


Christopher Hallum
President of Council

ATTEST:

Janice E Monaco
Council Clerk